nature net

The NatureKenya Newsletter www.naturekenya.org Feb 04

Kinangop Guest House

Noture Kenya is managing a guesthouse named '*Trees*', perched at 2,400 m on the edge of the Kinangop Plateau. *Trees* offers incredible views across the Rift Valley of Mt. Longonot, Lake Naivasha, Eburru and the Mau Escarpment. The 20-acre farm combines tussock-grass pasture and indigenous escarpment forest, while attractive gardens surround the comfortable, fully furnished guesthouse. Visitors can enjoy hikes and walks on the farm or go further afield with local guides.

The guesthouse and its annex comprise of two double bedrooms (one with an extra single bed, while the other has a child's cot), each with its own solar panel heated shower. There is a spacious living room with a fireplace, a large modern kitchen and a large veranda.

Rates: Day visit 350/-

MEMBER nos	Overnight	Weekend
1 to 2	4000/-	6500/-
3	4,900/-	7,400/-
4	5,800/-	8,300/-
5	6,600/-	9,200/-

For more information, brochure and non-member rates please contact Nature Kenyo.

TALKS & VIDEOS

Wanted Dead or Alive

An African Environmental Film Foundation Video Production

A Review of the Elephant situation in Kenya

Mon 9 February '04,

5:30 p.m. Ford Hall, National Museums, Nairobi

The East African Safari Rally

Thu 19 February '04,

6:30 p.m. Louis Leakey Hall, National Museums, Nairobi

with Kenya Museum Society

This very special programme will feature • A panel of outstanding rally drivers and organisers • Film clips from a new documentary tracing history of the rally in Kenya • Display of racing cars in front of the hall

KMS members 300/-, Non members 350/- Children 100/-

FIELD TRIPS

Gatamaiyu Forest

Saturday 28 February 04

This beautiful forest is close to Nairobi and easily accessible with a wide range of interesting birds and plants.

Morning and afternoon guided walks have been arranged. *Book with 400/- per person by* 24/2/04 at the Kenya Museum Society office with your Nature Kenya card. Bring along drinking water and picnic lunch.

A 4WD is not usually necessary in the dry season, but a car with high clearance is recommended. Transport is by car pool and confirmation is reliant on available vehicles.

* It is possible to camp overnight (at the Fisheries Campsite) and members who wish to do so should bring their camping gear (including water).

Kingwal Swamp Trip

Fri 12- Sun14 March 04

Kingwal Swamp is located in Kapsabet and is home to the endangered semi-aquatic antelope, Sitatunga.

The Youth Committee has organised a camping trip to the swamp, which will include a visit to Chepkiit Falls, bird watching and interaction with the community.

Please ensure you carry a sleeping bag or warm blanket, warm clothing and rubber shoes. Charges are KSh 2500 per person, payable by Tue 2 March at Nature Kenya front office. Minimum pax: 15 Maximum: 20

For more information email office@naturekenya.org

ALERT!

Unsustainable Scuba fishing for Lobster in Lamu

There are 1500 fishermen whose livelihoods depend on lobster fishing in the Lamu area.

Recently, fishermen using scuba-diving tanks have started fishing here. A few are local, but most are from neighbouring countries, facilltated by international exporters.

Local fishermen point out that fishing with tanks is clearly unsustainable: whereas free diving fishermen may, with luck, bring back 20 kgs for sale, the dive boats have been coming in with 300kg, pillaging the reef daily. A number of villages in the area survive totally on lobster fishing, and tank fishermen are a clear threat to the livelihoods of these communities.

It is believed that those sponsoring the scuba lobster fishing are also distributing nets to fishermen, which are seriously damaging the reefs.The local fishermen consider these nets the most serious threat to the reefs.

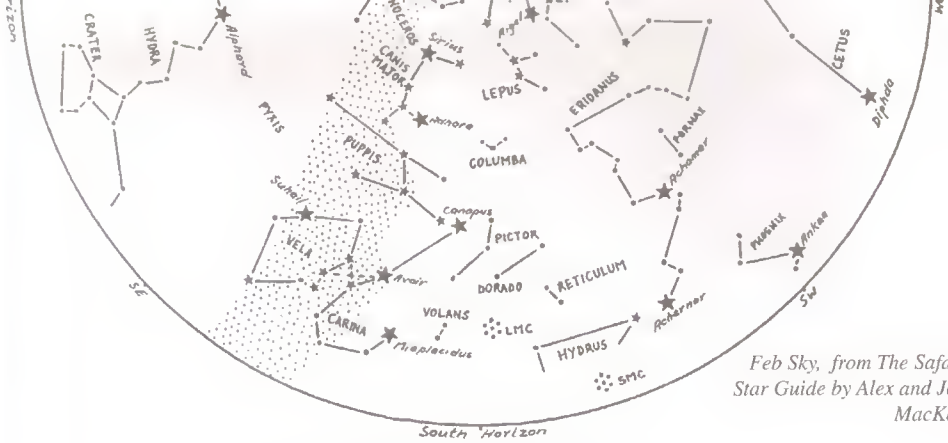
There is also information that Octopus is being harvested in tonnes off Shanga and Ziwayuu.

Carol Korschen
korschen@africaonline.co.ke

Stop Press:

Legal notice No. 214, in Kenya Gazette Natice Supplement No. 105 of 24th December 2003 Fisheries (prohibitians) Regulatians, 2003 prohibiting scuba diving far labsters and beche-de-mer and harvesting ar trading in immature lobsters has been published.

We hope that this prahibitian will be speedily implemented!



Feb Sky, from The Safari Star Guide by Alex and Joy MacKay

EVENING SKY

By Ian MacKay and Fleur Ng'weno

Moon, Feb 04

6 Feb *Full moon*; 13 Feb *Last quarter* (rises at midnight); 20 Feb *New moon*
28 Feb *First quarter* (overhead at sunset)

Stars, Feb 04

The evening sky holds many bright stars this month. Sirius, the brightest star we can see at night, is almost averhead, a little to the south. Canopus, the second brightest star, is at its best viewing position, below Sirius in the south.

The constellation of Orian, the warriar – three bright stars in a row, and four stars forming the corners of a box around them – is now overhead. Look carefully at the four corner stars; the star Rigel is blue-green in colour, while the star Betelgeuse is orange.

Almost overhead, north of Orion, is a bright, reddish star called Aldebaran. It is in a group of stars, the Hyades, which seem to form a 'V' in the sky. (To the ancient Greeks, this 'V' was the head of a mythical bull, and Aldebaran its fiery eye.)

A little lower, towards the northwest, is another star cluster, the Pleiades.

The Pleiades are very new stars, blue and hot, still surrounded by the dust and gas clouds from which they were formed. In the north, directly below Aldebaran, is the exceptionally bright star Capella.

The constellation af Perseus is setting in the northwest, below Capella and the Pleiades. Perseus contains a curious bright star called Algol, known as the demon star. Every 2 days and 20 hours and 49 minutes, it quickly fades to about one third of its usual brightness. Algol remains so for abaut 5 haurs befare returning to its normal brightness. This behaviaur is caused by a dimmer companion star periodically moving between Algol and ourselves, cutting off the bright light for a while. One can only imagine how fast these stars must be circling each other to achieve this effect in less than 3 days!

Planets, Feb 04

Venus is low in the sky, close to the setting sun in the early evening. Mars is now in the western sky, also setting slowly. Saturn is high overhead. On February 8, Jupiter is close to the moon.

Intern & Volunteer Posts to Fill!

Public Relations Officer (an Internship)

The Membership Services programme of Nature Kenya needs a skilled communicator, to assist with coordination of print and media requirements.

We are looking for someone with some experience and self-initiative, who has an understanding of current national and global environmental issues. A public relations, marketing or journalism professional qualification will be an added advantage.

The internship will run for a year, reporting to the Membership Services Manager. Please send your application and resume by 28 February 04 to office@naturekenya.org or mail to Nature Kenya.

Event & Outings Organiser (Volunteer)

How would you like to help coordinate major member and public events? Are you a good organiser? Do you have some experience? Do you have plenty of time? *Yes!* Then please contact us at office@naturekenya.org

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY BIRDWATCH

Members meet at the National Museum, Nairabi car park at 9:00 a.m. the third Sunday of every month, **i.e.15 February**. The members decide where to ga. Bring lunch

TREE WALK

Guided Tree Walks in the Arboretum on the second Saturday and last Monday, i.e. **14 & 23 February from 9:30 a.m.** Meet at the Arboretum gate. *Those who are not members of FONA or Nature Kenya pay Ksh 100/- fee on arrival at the gate.*

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRDWALKS

Bird watching walks at sites in and around Nairabi. Meet at the National Museum car park every Wednesdoy at 8:45 a.m. Return about 12:30 p.m. *Those wha are nat members can get temporary membership at Ksh 100 per birdwalk, payable an arrival at the car park.*

ARABUKO-SOKOKE (COAST)

The Saturday birdwatch with the Arabuko Sokoke Forest Guides Association is on the first Saturday of each month i.e. **7 February, at 6:30 a.m.** from the Visitor Centre, Gede. Cost 100/- per persan. KWS fees may naw apply (100/- Citizens, 500/- Residents)

FFJ Bird Walk (Coast)

Friends of Fort Jesus birdwalks are held the third Saturday of each month, i.e. **21 February** Please call Marlene Reid an (041) 491 648 to confirm

Ngong Road Forest Walks (Nairobi)

The Ngong Road Farest Sanctuary Trust Nature walks are held on the first and third Saturdays af the manth i.e. *7* **& 21 February, at 9:00 a.m.** Meet at the stairs leading to the Restaurant at the Racecaurse.

Lake Victoria Sunset Birders (Kisumu)

The Lake Victaria Sunset Birders are a Nature Kenya Site Support Graup and organise bird walks at sites in and around Kisumu every Friday of the month. For further details call 035 42952 or email wck@vicweb.net

DECLARATION

Nature Kenya does not accept any responsibility whatsaever in respect af negligence of any af its staff, volunteers ar members organising the outings/trips or far any lass, injury, death ar damage ta praperty.

GRASSROOTS

Mount Kenya Site Support Groups (SSGs) on the Move

In November 03, members of the Summit Ventures SSG, tagether with the Nature Kenya Site Canservation Intern, embarked on a division-wide awareness and tree planting campaign at local schools. The Green Avenue Project and Mount Kenya West Reafforestation Program were also involved.

An average of 150 seedlings have been planted in the following schools: Naromoru Township Primary, Naromoru Township Secondary, Gitero Primary, Ndiriti Primary and Karundas Sececonday. Schoals were informed about Nature Kenya's up-coming Eco-resource Centre.

CLASSIFIEDS

Reach over 1000 members by advertising in Nature Net
Rates for Classifieds: • Up to 25 words 250/- • Up to 50 words 500/-
Ads • 1/4 page @ 1750/- • 1/2 page @ 3000/- with image +500/-

PLANT INDIGENOUS !
TREES AND SHRUBS

ATTRACT BUTTERFLIES AND BIRDS

80 SPECIES INDIGENOUS TREES AND SHRUBS, WELL GROWN (1M+) IN LARGE POLYPOTS.

ORDER YOUR **YELLOW NANDI FLAME TREE.**

"LANDSCAPE" SIZE TREES ALSO AVAILABLE.

VISIT THE NURSERY FOR ADVICE OR TREES CAN BE DELIVERED.

CONTACT: CAROLE HEMMINGS
CROPWATCH TREE NURSERY, THIKA
067 47332
EMAIL: hemmings@africaonline.co.ke

Sokoke Cats

Would you like to own a unique Sokoke Cat?

There are very few of these domestic cats in the world, but Sokokes are winning championships at shows in Europe! Look them up on the Internet www.sokoke.dk/kenya

A few kittens are available at Ksh 5000 from Jeannie Knocker, P. O. Box 77 WATAMU Tel: 042 32465 Email:corncon@africaonline.co.ke

TANA RIVER SAFARIS

Calling All Naturalists !

A Unique 7 Day Safari via Tsavo to the Coast & Back! Via Galla Camp, Taita Ranch (part of a 160,000 acre conservancy in the Tsavo ecosystem),Tsavo East, to 2 nights at the luxury Tana Delta Camp. Thence up the Tana to Mchelelo Camp (2 nights) in the fabulous jungle of the Tana River Primate Reserve, where sightings of 2 species of endangered primate guaranteed!

Return Nairobi via Tsavo East & Umani Springs Camp in the Kibwezi Forest.

K.Shs.61,000 per person 4 pax.
74,000 per person 3 pax.
100,000 per person 2 pax.
179,500 per person 1 pax.

For further details, see contacts below.
KWS fees for Tsavo East not included (2 days). Bring own smart cards.

Porini Resources Services for Conservation,
Community & Wildlife Management
PO Box 22759, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: 254-2-891702
Fax: 254-2-891307
E-mail: info@poriniresources.com
Web: www.poriniresources.com <http://www.poriniresources.com>

NATURALIST CORNER

Green Nairobi

Ann Birnie

What a surprisingly green time of the yeor in Nairobi! An afternoon in Nairobi National Pork followed by the Saturday morning walk in Ngong forest gave fine opportunity to notice the vegetation. In the park we were pleased to spot the horns of a resting buffalo appearing just above the abundant tall grasses, which were in flower. Bronze, silver or delicote green, the variety af flawering heods included the unmistakable fluffy pink of *Rhynchyletrum repens* or red top .

We observed giroffe in the upper woodlands munching leaves of shrubby *Croton dichogamous*, but dawn on the plains a lorge group were picking aut the young shoots fram thorny *Acacia mellifera* bushes. An *Acacia gerrardii*, could be seen belaw Impala Point. Mony were in flower with dense white bobbly flower heods olong the branches, supplying nector for insect visitors.

*

Forest guides led our small party at Ngong Farest an a bright, fresh morning. Many horses from the rocing stobles were being exercised olong the narrow muddy path, passing us as we looked at the forest understorey. Soon everyone could distinguish between the arange-yellaw, prickly exotic weed *Lantona camoro* ond the pole mauve flowered indigenaus wild species, *Lantana trifolia*. A discussion about weeds followed as we noted flourishing *Datura stramonium*, or Thorn Apple.

The understorey, at eye level, could be seen, touched and smelled - quite useful for identification! We noted young Olive saplings and on Ochna tree with a remaining yellow flower or two. Its bronzy soft young leoves become stiff os they get older, rough above with raised veins, but very smooth belaw. Everyone noted the strang aroma of *Clausena anisata* leaves on a forest sopling and the less pleosant smell of the weed herb, *Tagetes minuta*, the exotic Mexican marigald. In the potches of sunshine between the trees, it was good to see grass flowers ot close quarters (by reversing binoculors) ond our youngest walker eosily collected over o dozen gross species.

Prickly young leoves of *Pterolobium stellatum* were felt ond seen on young twining stems and large woody lumps nated on strong old lianes. Finolly we spotted their red winged fruit topping the tree conopy on our return walk.

COURSES

Fundamentals of Ornithology

23 - 30 April 04 Elsamere Field Studies Centre, Lake Naivasha

This is an introduction to ornithology, designed for amateur and professional bird guides and birdwatchers who want to improve their understanding of birds and their skills in the field. Teaching is through illustrated lectures, discussion sessions, groups seminars, demonstrations and field practicals, in an informal environment.

Fees: Ksh 25,000, which includes full-board accommodation, transport to and from Naivasha and during field outings, course materials, fees, equipment, and teaching expenses.

Applicants must have some experience of birding and education up to KCSE level. Send application to the Course Coordinator at Nature Kenya with a non-refundable deposit of 12,500/-.

FEBRUARY DIARY

Sat 7 ASF Birdwalks & NRF wolk
Mon 9 *Wanted Dead or Alive Video*
Sat 14 Tree Wolk
Sun 15 Sunday Birdwalk
Thu 19 Safari Rally Presentation
Mon 23 Tree Walk
Sat 28 Gatomoiyu Outing
Birdwolks every Wednesday Morning

Editor, Catherine Ngarachu

Nature *Kenya*

Membership form

Yes! ( ) *Start* ( ) *Renew*

my Nature Kenya membership

MAILING ADDRESS (BLOCK LETTERS)

Surname
First Name Ms/Mr/Title
Address

Tel (H) (O)
Mobile
Email

(**OPTIONAL** - but useful to us in planning)

Occupation
Age Bracket (tick) under 21( ) 21-35( ) 36-50( ) over 50( )
Country of Origin
Would you like us to share your contacts Yes/ NO

For Official Use Only Sub No. Recpt. No.
Mode Due Date Recpt Date

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	**Ksh Per Year**	**Enter Amount**
Full	800	
Sponsor	**3000**	
Family	1000	
Pensioners	300	
Students (Full time & undergraduate)	300	
Institutional (Libraries, schools, clubs)	1000	
Corporate (check with the office)		

ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Kenya Birds **(please tick if you would like to receive this Bird magazine)**	*Free of charge*
Journal of E.A. Natural History	1000
Scopus (Ornithological Journal)	500
World Birdwatch (the BirdLife International magazine)	1500
Succulenta East Africa	400
Friends of Nairobi Arboretum	

Single - 400/-, Student - 250/-, School or Club - 800/-

DONATIONS ***Help us to do even more!***

5000/ 8000/ Other

Total

If you live reside outside of Kenya please refer to www.naturekenya.org